

SPORTSMEN'S ARMS FOR CHINA.

During seven years' stay in the principal shooting districts on the coast of China, where an abundant variety of game and wild-fowl exists, I have learned from practical experience which are the most serviceable guns and rifles for a sportsman to carry in Far Cathay. I have always taken the keenest interest in shooting, and have made a study of the different kinds of arms that are being offered to sportsmen, also I have possessed nearly all grades of guns from the .22 shooter to the thirty-five guinea one. Having had plenty of leisure, I have tested my guns both theoretically and practically, examined the internal mechanism, and have fired at game and wild-fowl, during the last five years, about 15,000 cartridges; consequently I may without being accused of egotism lay some claim to give practical advice to those who have not had the opportunities for much experience. The majority of Europeans in China are ardent shooters, or at all events use guns of some sort, but it is remarkable how very few of them possess the serviceable all-round gun to meet the varied shooting met with out there. Of course the experienced sportsman will know the best kind of arm to equip himself with; it is not this class of sportsman I am desirous of assisting, but those who purchase several unreliable guns, and never get satisfaction from them, although they may have spent three or four hundred pounds on a worthless gun. The man of limited means cannot afford to buy an expensive gun, therefore he must be contented with a cheap one, and there are such a variety of cheap guns offered for sale that it is confusing to the novice which to select. The all-round gun of the present age is the 12-bore, and I will make and bore it answers a wide variety of shooting. The poor sportsman whose shooting does not exceed 1,000 rounds per season could not do better than procure a Belmont interchangeable gun, by Bouchill of Birmingham; the grade "C" or "D" the former grade gun costs £100 and the latter £120. The "C" grade shows signs of being an all-round gun, the "D" having better barrels (4 wire Damascus) will retain its shooting qualities longer than the "C," therefore I recommend the more expensive one. Both of the guns are nicely finished, well balanced, with reliable locks, and make a splendid shooting pattern on the regulation plate, the average being 140 pellets with right barrel and 220 with left barrel, very evenly distributed and throwing well up to the centre of the target. I procured a "C" grade, which would average 52 pellets in a 10-inch square, and 110 pellets in a 10-inch circle, at 100 yards, using No. 6 shot. With the choke barrel of this gun I invariably killed wild duck at 60 yards; and often have dropped them at 80 yards. Of course the aim must be perfectly true to accomplish such shots, so as to get the centre of the charge on the object aimed at. From this grade gun (C) I fired 6,000 rounds, and with the exception of outside appearance it was after all this work as good as new. I have possessed cheap guns by various makers, but must admit that their shooting qualities were very poor compared with the "Belmont" guns. I know a good old sportsman in China, who uses a "D" grade Belmont in preference to his 30-guinea gun.

Should the sportsman require a rifle at a cheap price, yet to be a serviceable and a handy weapon, I would strongly advise him to buy the .450-300 Winchester repeating carbine of the 1886 model; 9 shot magazine, with 24-inch barrel, and the English pattern stock. This carbine weighs about 22 lbs. is well balanced, and very accurate up to 500 yards. It is adapted to a variety of game, as charges consisting of various weights of powder and lead may be used in it; the bullets all being of .45 calibre. The following are the cartridges adapted to it, the cartridge shells being all alike:

90 grs. powder, 300 grs. solid ball.
90 grs. " 295 grs. solid puffed ball.
85 " " 350 " solid ball.
82 " " 300 " hollow express bullet.
80 " " 300 " hollow express bullet.

It is seen at a glance that it will suit a variety of sport from deer to wild boar, and tiger from a well directed shot with the express bullet. The magazine may be charged alternately with hollow and solid ball. The 295 and 300 grs. bullets are sufficient for pig, and in the event of 'piggy' charging, then the express bullet will stop him. Although the powder charge is not the express principle, nevertheless it gives an extraordinary smashing effect and creates a terrible wound. There is no unpleasant recoil when the carbine is fired, and the pull-off is about 1 lb. of rapid alignment, and the carbine as it handles better and is not so heavy as the rifle. A set of reloading implements may be kept, as the cases will stand reloading with safety a dozen times. There is a Winchester express rifle of 50 calibre, but it is only suitable for heavy and dangerous game. If the sportsman desires a better quality gun than any of those I have enumerated, he will not find so much difficulty in getting one, as several makers turn out splendid guns at from £18 to £20, but very few can turn out good guns for £10. Mr. Bouchill appears to be a specialist in cheap and reliable guns. The man with ample means need not furnish himself with a very expensive gun for shooting in China; it is very rough shooting out here, and guns get knocked about a deal. In my opinion, he could not do better than procure a Holland and Holland's "Paradox," or a Lancaster's "Colindale;" both these guns are as suitable for shot as the best modified choke, and will perform with ball equal to an express rifle up to 200 yards. These are the guns for abroad, they can be used for anything from snipe to tiger. The smashing effect with ball is enormous, and no more than 3 drams of powder need be used; the bullet weighs over 15 ounces and may be had hollow or solid. One of the bullets with 3 drams will knock a tiger into a "cooked hen." The gun is no heavier than the ordinary 12-bore and as to balance and finish the makers names are a guarantee. These guns may be had, plain quality, for £27 and £30 each.

The best duck-gun for wild fowl, etc., in China is a double 10-bore "Kynock" brass case gun, as made by Wm. Evans and Co., London. The brass case gun is especially constructed for brass shells, and will shoot for hours without getting hot. A 10-bore brass case gun surpasses in shooting power an 8-bore paper case gun, and besides, it has the advantage of being lighter and handles better; and it required, the ordinary paper cartridge may be used in it with good results. A gun weighing 40 lbs. would be sufficiently heavy, and would carry 44 drams of powder and 15 ounces of large shot and with such a charge it will kill at 100 yards. The price is about £35.

Shooting clothing in this country must be of a material to suit the climate. For shooting to the south of Foochow, Madam cloth or "Mather" cloth is the most suitable for northern shooting, tweed or woollen suits are required. For carrying cartridges, I prefer a good strong bag, the leather of which should be soft and pliable, and the cartridge loops be double-stitched at the

upper and lower sides, as they are then less liable to slip off. A carrying bag with spare ammunition may be given to the coolie, and the bag should be fitted with a small pad-lock; it can easily be adjusted and will prevent the coolie from stealing the cartridges. A good strong hunting knife with an 8-inch blade and 14 in. wide, is a good companion, and will serve many purposes. Also, a 380 revolver is a handy thing to carry; I have on one occasion it saved my gun and probably my life. I recommend none others but Smith and Wesson's or Merwin and Hubert's.

I hope the details above mentioned will benefit the readers of this letter, and that they will not, as others before now have done, get disgusted with their guns and give up shooting.

G. W.
Hongkong, 17th January, 1894.

PASSENGERS BOOKED FOR THE FAR EAST.

Per Messageries Maritimes steamer *Calcutta*, from Marseilles, January 21st.—To Shanghai: Mr. John Liddell, M. de Grosse.

Per Messageries Maritimes steamer *Orus*, from Marseilles, February 4th.—To Yokohama: Mr. Mrs. A. Comstock. To Shanghai: Mr. and Mrs. Okoshi and two children. Mrs. Agnew, Rev. P. de Neel, Rev. P. de Jacomo.

Per P. & O. steamer *Massilia*, from London, January 18th.—From Brindisi.—To Yokohama: Mr. J. F. Pearson. To Shanghai: Mr. W. H. Guy. To Hongkong: Mr. C. A. H. Westerbauer, Mr. W. H. Des.

Per P. & O. steamer *Australia* from London, February 2nd.—To Yokohama: Miss Louisa Hill. From Brindisi.—To Shanghai: Miss Simpson. To Hongkong: Mr. H. Ehmer.

Per P. & O. steamer *Victoria*, from London, March 2nd.—Colombo to Shanghai: Mr. and Mrs. Rowe.

Per Canadian Pacific steamer *Empress of Japan*, from Vancouver, February 5th.—To Yokohama: Mrs. Bishop. To Hongkong: Mr. Semcombe Smith.

TIENTSIN.

Tientsin affairs are lively again. Apparently dust-storms are not the only storms that occur periodically up there. Tea-cup storms, of the ordinary out-pour sort, are frequently reported, but every now and then more serious and far-reaching disturbances. One of these occurred lately. No mere trifles started it; no less a matter, indeed, than a direct challenge to the authority of the British Consul in the British Settlement. In the British Settlement of Tientsin there is but one source of authority, viz., the British Consul. The Municipal Police derive their powers from him, and solely by virtue of his warrant can they lay hands on any man. With him rests the right of arrest—

with him alone. This the German Consul, one would think, must surely have known, at any rate ought to have known; this he forgot or appeared to forget. Seemingly he made a deliberate attempt either to bluff or ignore the British Consul. He took it upon him to invite certain Chinese officials to the settlement with the ostensible object of arresting some thieves, who had broken into the premises of a German firm, Messrs. E. Meyer & Co. It was not only a breach of consular etiquette, it was also an affront to the authority of the Municipal Council in whose hands the matter might safely have been left. It was a high-handed, out-of-reason, out-of-order proceeding, and could not possibly be left pass. Representations were at once made to the British Consul, and with the rapid energy which characterizes his actions, matters were speedily put right. The German Consul found he had made a mistake. He discovered that things are rather different now from what they used to be at the British Consulate. He found it convenient to offer an explanation, which savoured strongly of apology. It was explained, we understand, that the Chinese officials in question had only been asked into the Settlement in order that their advice might be taken about the robbery; that, in fact, they did not come in the capacity of officials, but in the office of friends. The German Consul would seem to have thus acknowledged the authority of the British Consul in the Settlement, was his real intention to invite them to his residence, and it was not that of the more influential among his nationals. These contended that he would be within his rights in making an arrest, and that the idea of the British Consul alone having the power of arrest was absurd. They took up in full the position which Baron von Seckendorff had appeared to assume. The matter came up inevitably at the Land-enters' Meeting, held on the 3rd of January, and the British Consul had to explain to these gentlemen their mistake. The feeling between Germans and Britons in Tientsin is calmed, and the German Consul has been told to leave the German Consulate, and to leave the Club (where the Germans, headed by Messrs. Seckendorff and Bruns, left the old Club in a body, and set up one of their own) seemed to be dying away, but it has not been so unawakened of late. One or two results have already appeared. Among them the significant fact that Mr. G. Detring has lost his seat on the Municipal Council, of which body he has been Chairman for a number of years. He was unwise enough to contest the position claimed for the British Consul; to insist that the German Consul had every right to arrest and to back up Baron von Seckendorff's action before it was explained away. Obviously it could hardly be that any one holding such erroneous notions as to the position of a British Consul in a British Settlement should be re-elected on the British Municipal Council. At the Land-enters' Meeting accordingly there was a solid vote for five British subjects and Mr. Detring found himself rejected. In the past it has always been said of this gentleman that he was wise enough to keep his nationality out of local politics, but although of late many things have seemed to falsify this, it surprised his friends to find him taking such a wrong-headed view on the present occasion. The possibility of Mr. Detring losing his seat on the Council has been matter for speculation in Tientsin for some time past. But it comes as a surprise cannot truly be said. But it was by no means a certainty. He has the deep gratitude of the community for all that he has done, and it was quite a question whether that gratitude would not suffice to carry him on to the Council in spite of the doubts which have steadily been arising in the minds of people as to the genuineness of those consular appointments which were formerly said to animate him.

This last incident settled the matter, however. Britons are long-suffering, and slow to move to protect their privileges, but when a thing like this happens, when the authority of their Consul is challenged, and the alien Chairman of their own Municipal Council backs up the challenger, when, moreover, a German gentleman at the Land-enters' Meeting practically says that the Queen's Land Regulations are as much rubbish and ought to be torn up, then it is time to take action in self-defence, as the Land-enters in Tientsin felt themselves obliged to do, unwilling as they would otherwise be to lose the valuable services of Mr. Detring.—N. C. Daily News.

THE NEW JAPAN LINE OF STEAMERS.

COMPETITION AND CUTTING RATES.

According to a Bombay contemporary, freights to Japan by the steamers of the P. & O., Austrian Lloyd's, and Rubattino Companies are now quoted at Rs. 2 per ton for wheat and cotton in contrast to the rate of Rs. 17, less 15 per cent. discount, which has been so long maintained. This sudden fall is, as all interested in the China trade know, owing to a Japanese line, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, having started steamers to compete for the carrying trade between Bombay, China, and Japan, at greatly reduced freights. The old-standing Companies have lowered their freights to a practically nominal quotation in consequence. Such lessening of freights may at first blush appear a fortunate thing for the Bombay mill-owner, as it enables him to lay down yarn in China and Japan cheaper than hitherto, and so help to tide over the existing period of depression in that trade. Those who are gifted with foresight, however, see that the development of this combination, which has been formed between the Nippon Yusen Company, the Japanese Millowners' Association, and a well-known Bombay firm, (Messrs. Tata & Co.—Ed. H.K. Telegraph.) to bring this new line of steamers into the trade may have far-reaching and unforeseen consequences, likely to be disastrous to that great industry, which has done so much for the prosperity of Bombay. [Induced.]

The declared object of the new line of steamers is to lay down yarn in Japan at prices so low that the mills of that country may compete further than now with those of our own city. The mills in Japan on the 30th June last numbered thirty-seven, with an aggregate of 315,470 spindles actually at work on that date, and, in addition to two mills now in course of construction, it is reported that during the past few months orders have been placed in Lancashire for 150,000 spindles for additions to the mills now working, so that the producing power of the Japanese mills is largely and rapidly increasing. Already these mills have complete command of the markets of Japan, a country formerly a good customer for Bombay yarn. Not content with practically driving out the spinners of our local mills from Japan, they now aim at doing the same in the Chinese markets. The Government of Japan are anxious to do all in their power to foster a monopoly of production in their country, and it is confidently expected in all quarters that the Diet which has just re-assembled at Tokio will repeal the present import duty on cotton, and this will be really giving a bonus of at least dollars 2,000,000 to the mill industry. This stimulus, added to the cheaper freights on cotton, will enable the factories of that country to compete with the concurrent advantages of cheap skilled labour, cheap coals, and the benefit of a free exchange, to lay down yarn in Shanghai, Hongkong, and other Chinese ports at prices which the Bombay millowner may find it impossible to touch. Though we have every confidence in the enterprise and capacity of our merchants and fellow-citizens who have so successfully conducted this great business to its present high position and vast importance, yet it is with much anxiety that we look to the future. The outlook is a very serious one for the Bombay spinning concerns, who may some day find their best markets in the hands of their Japanese competitors, and their trade fast leaving them.

HENRY NORMAN AND HIS TEMOH WILD-CAT.

All concerned in the future of Siam, and especially in that cleverly conceived raid floated by Henry Norman at the Temoh Cold Fields, will read with interest the following comments by Mr. N. Samwell, who has recently been on an extended tour through the Peninsula, on Mr. Henry Norman's criticism of Siamese administration, etc., etc.—Mr. H. Norman's criticisms on the Siamese in his recent *Contemporary* article, says Mr. Samwell, are undeserved and unfair, considering the hospitality and kindness shown him in Bangkok. He broke of their bread and ate of their salt, and they treated him as if he were a prince amongst his people, and now because the people who were sent to Temoh proved themselves either useless or unable to develop the mine, he lays the blame on the Siamese of the concession, forgetting the old English adage, that you must not look a gift horse in the mouth. I notice that your (*Singapore Free Press*) Bangkok correspondent says:—

"The concession, it is true, was worthless, and as soon as the lessee had started a Company or Syndicate to begin working it, his good friends the Siamese found means to effectually thwart and defeat the attempt."

This is the unfortunate charge laid on the unfortunate head of the Siamese scapegoat, but I declare that the paragraph conveys quite an erroneous impression. The Siamese have been some misunderstanding which resulted, perhaps from the Europeans not comprehending the language and customs of the country, but as soon as the Siamese Commissioner arrived, everything was done to help the Europeans and not to thwart them. All through from the first, the Siamese did all they could to help the concessionaire, but it could not be expected that the Siamese Government would supply them with free labour, work the ground for them, or extract the gold themselves. The concession was theirs to do as they liked with it, and if they did not like it, and if they also did not like to blame, and not the Siamese Government.

I spent several months in the neighbourhood of the Temoh concession, and could see little or no work done by the Company. The machinery was left lying along the jungle track, and instead of putting it in position and getting some gold, the staff appeared to have wasted their time grumbling amongst themselves. In the article there is a reference to the strictures passed on Capt. Jones, British Minister Resident at the Court of Bangkok, and on Mr. French, the Consul, all of which seem to be based on the same sore spot, Temoh. The Bangkok correspondent appears to endorse those strictures on the European Consuls, but the outside world should understand that this probably rests on nothing but Bangkok hearsay, in quarters of uncertain credibility. So far as the traders are concerned, if they choose to give credit to the Siamese, it is their own look-out. They cannot expect to have their Consuls and a gun-boat at their backs whenever they want their bills paid. Reference is also made to Mr. Norman's sneer as to the incapacity of the Siamese for self-government, but you can bet your bottom dollar that the Siamese are fully alive to all that is going on in the world. They know full well that the nations of Europe make treaties and tear them up as may suit their purpose in the most unprincipled manner; that there is no political honour amongst any of them, and that the chief article of European belief is that "might is right." Then who can blame Siam for taking care of herself? For, as Mr. G. Duffy said in his *Far East* sketch, Melbourne on his retirement to England, "I beheld the small dominions and commonwealths of the world to look after themselves, the great nations had virtually torn up their treaties and thrown political principles and decency to the winds."

If the sufferers from Consumption, Scrofula and General Debility will try Scott's Emulsion of Pure Cod Liver Oil with Hypophosphites, they will find immediate relief and a permanent benefit. The Medical Profession in the various countries of the world universally declare it a remedy of the greatest value, and as it is very palatable it can be readily taken by the most sensitive stomach, and will never fail to give relief and comfort to the sufferer. Any Chemist can supply it.—A. S. Watson & Co. (Limited), agents in Hongkong and China.—Advt.

Today's Advertisements.

VICTORIA PRECEPTORY.

AN EMERGENCY MEETING of the Victoria Preceptory will be held "THIS EVENING, the 13th inst., at 8.30 for 9 o'clock precisely. Visiting Brethren are cordially invited to attend."

HONGKONG, 13th February, 1894. [218]

VICTORIA LODGE.

AN EMERGENCY MEETING of the above LODGE will be held in FREEMASONS' HALL, 24, DUNDAS STREET, on SATURDAY, the 17th inst., at 8.30 for 9 p.m. precisely. Visiting Brethren are cordially invited.

HONGKONG, 13th February, 1894. [235]

MEETINGS for work in connection with the C. E. A. will be held by Mrs. BIRD, 15th February; Mrs. HAWKINS, 1st March; Mrs. WOODHOUSE, 8th, 15th and 22nd March; at 3.30. It is hoped that Members will be able to attend.

HONGKONG, 13th February, 1894. [237]

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW.

"FUKIEN," Captain Davis, will be despatched for the above Port on THURSDAY, the 15th inst., at Daylight.

For Freight or Passage, apply to DOUGLAS LARRAIK & Co., General Managers.

HONGKONG, 13th February, 1894. [235]

"MOGUL" LINE OF STEAMERS.

FOR SHANGHAI, KOBE AND YOKOHAMA.

"PATHAN," Captain Wright, will be despatched as above on or about WEDNESDAY, the 21st inst.

For Freight or Passage, apply to DODWELL, CARLILL & Co., Agents.

HONGKONG, 13th February, 1894. [238]

NOW READY.

"THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY AND HONG LIST FOR THE FAR EAST" FOR 1894.

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W. BREWER.

HONGKONG, 10th February, 1894. [240]

WHITAKER'S ALMANACKS, 1894. Hazell's Annual, 1894. Nautical Diary, 1894. Year Book of Photography, 1894. Compendium of Chess. Boys' and Men's Footballs. Boxing Gloves. Water and Oil Colour Boxes. Sable and Hog Hair Brushes. Churchman's Almanack. European Account Book.

DANCING PUMPS. Dance Programmes. Scrap Album for Unmounted Photos. Christmas No. of *Figaro*, English edition. Coming—To the Shadow of the Pagoda. Stirling—Suicide and Insanity. Hows—Illustrated Interviews. Engineers' Almanack, 1894. New Exchange Tables 2/- to 3/6.

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DAWSON'S PERFECTION OLD SCOTCH WHISKY.

ALLISTON & CO., SOLE AGENTS, Hongkong and the Far East, 63, Queen's Road Central.

HONGKONG, 11th December, 1893. [241]

NOTICE. THE HONGKONG HOTEL ROTISSERIE will be RE-OPENED on FRIDAY, the 9th inst., under new and experienced management. The STRICTEST ATTENTION will be paid to the CUISINE.

A STAFF of thoroughly trained and specially selected servants has been engaged and will be under the immediate supervision of the Manager. Hongkong, 5th February, 1894. [248]

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W. THOMAS, Proprietor.

HONGKONG, 3rd May, 1893. [31]

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Rattan Cots, Split Rattan, Canton Reed and Sandies of all kinds.

HONGKONG, 28th November 1893. [35]

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TO LET. DWELLING HOUSE No. 27, Mosque Street. Gas and Water laid on.

Apply 44, UPPER MOSQUE TERRACE. Hongkong, 29th January, 1894. [124]

TO LET. DWELLING HOUSES:—"BAHAR LODGE," at the Peak. "STOLZENFELS," at the Peak. "THE WILDERNESS," Cause Road.

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GODOWNS:—BLUE BUILDINGS. Apply to THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., Ltd. Hongkong, 12th February, 1894. [23]

TO LET. A LARGE DRY AND SPACIOUS GODOWN, at Praya East, on Marine Lot No. 42.

Apply to N. MODY & Co. Hongkong, 22nd January, 1894. [134]

HOUSE TO LET, FURNISHED OR UNFURNISHED. STEWART TERRACE, PEAK.

Apply to DOUGLAS LARRAIK & Co. Hongkong, 2nd January, 1894. [13]

TO LET. HOUSES at "BELLIOS TERRACE," Robinson Road. SHOP No. 24, "BANK BUILDINGS," opposite "HONGKONG HOTEL."

HOUSE No. 21, Shelley Street. ROOMS in "BRACONFIELD ARCADE," Queen's Road.

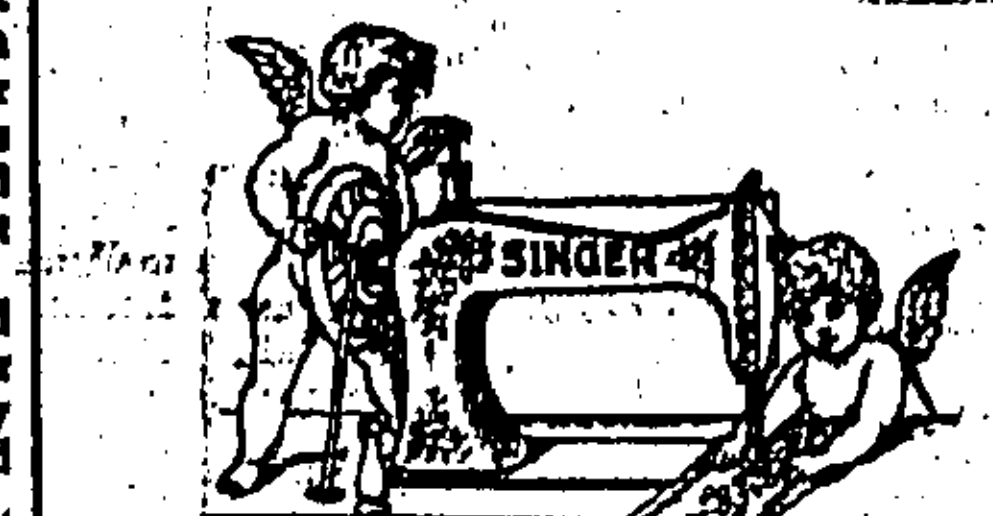
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Apply to BELLIOS & Co. Hongkong, 8th February, 1894. [216]

TO LET. NOS. 1, 2 & 7, SEYMOUR TERRACE. OFFICES in Victoria Buildings.

DAVID SASSOON, SONS & Co. Hongkong, 3rd February, 1894. [14]

Intimations.



THE SINGER MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

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HONGKONG, 15th January, 1894. [34]

CAIDRECK, MACGREGOR & Co., WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

HONGKONG,

